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Aug-Sept-Oct.
1984



The Habit

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE DIVISION
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS
1539 11TH AVENUE, HELENA, MONTANA 59620

SAF DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, 1984

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

AGENDA ST. 11-87
SERIALS 7-61-748
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

It would appear that in the not too far distant future the role of the 16mm film and projector for training and prevention purposes will decrease in importance, and video recordings will, to a great extent, replace them. Therefore, we request that you complete the questionnaire below and return it to the Department of Institutions, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, 1539 11th Avenue, Helena, MT. 59620. The purpose of the survey is to help us determine if it would be feasible or practical to divert some of the film purchase funds into video cassettes.

The last questions on the survey form are to help us plan for whatever impact, if any, computerized program information may have. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

PROGRAM NAME

We have VCR equipment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Recorder <input type="checkbox"/>	Monitor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
We do not have VCR equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>		
We expect to have VCR equipment soon		<input type="checkbox"/>	
We have VCR equipment available to us		<input type="checkbox"/>	
We would probably not use any VCR equipment		<input type="checkbox"/>	
We are currently using a computer	<input type="checkbox"/>		
We do not use a computer	<input type="checkbox"/>		
We expect to have a computer soon		<input type="checkbox"/>	
We have no need for a computer	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Life is complicated enough as it is		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

You may return the questionnaire separately or include it with your month end reports.

PRESIDENT REAGAN DESIGNATES "NATIONAL DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING AWARENESS WEEK"

President Reagan signed a resolution (S.J. Res. 303) (PL-98-338) designating December 9-15, 1984, as "National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week." The 1984 observance will mark the third annual week of activities designed to promote public awareness of the problem of drunk and drugged driving.

Plans are underway to introduce a resolution for a second annual observance of National Fetal Alcohol Awareness Week, which last year took place January 15-19. Groups working on the effort are considering the designation of a week later in the year to provide more time for preparation.

ONE FOR THE ROAD

"THE 1984 SURVEY shows that the public continues to be upset over the social and economic aspects of drunk driving and the killing of innocent people day after day," according to L. C. Christopher, Alliance Vice President-Communications.

"The interesting point is that while both the public and private sectors have done a lot over the past year to address the drunk driving problem, the public still expects more to be done and people are willing to be involved given the opportunity," Christopher said.

THE ALLIANCE is a founding partner with other national citizen action organizations of the CB Radio Coalition Against Drunk Driving. The Coalition promotes proper use of CB Radio Emergency Channel 9 for an "Impaired Driver Alert." It is estimated that some 30 million CB radios are in use or carried as part of an emergency kit. Christopher emphasized that the Impaired Driver Alert should describe only the vehicle and the way it is being driven, not to judge the driver.

"One should never describe another driver as 'drunk' because the driver may be ill, falling asleep or having some other problem. The CB Radio aids in getting help more quickly," he said, "while also helping to get those who may be intoxicated off the road before they hurt themselves or others."

The Presidential Commission on Drunk Driving recommended the following:

"Citizens should be encouraged by governmental and non-governmental groups to report drivers under the influence."

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FOODSERVICE INDUSTRY JOINS DD CAMPAIGN

The National Restaurant Association (NRA), the leading trade association for the foodservice industry, has initiated a nationwide drunk-driving campaign that is designed to reach restaurant customers at a very crucial moment, when the decision is made whether or not to drive.

The campaign, which involves restaurant and tavern owners, managers, bartenders and servers, has three separate elements:

- 1) A "server education" program to teach bartenders and servers how to prevent intoxication;
- 2) The introduction of industry practices designed to deter intoxication and to provide alternative transportation for impaired drinkers; and
- 3) A long-range consumer education program targeted at restaurant customers to increase awareness of the dangers of drunk-driving.

The server education program entails a one-day course that will train the managers of restaurants and foodserver chains, who will then teach bartenders and servers about the physical effects of alcohol, state laws, the visible signs of overconsumption and methods of preventing intoxication.

"Our objective is to make this seminar available in every region of the country where a similar program is not yet in place," said NRA President Joe R. Lee.

NRA's campaign also calls for the elimination of all bar promotions or practices that put more than one drink in front of a guest at a time. According to NRA president Lee, "We are discouraging practices which may be perceived as fostering overconsumption of alcoholic beverages. In particular, we are discouraging "all-you-can drink" offers, 'two-for-one' offers, multiple drinks at cut-off time and unlimited free drinks."

Lee said, "No action on the part of foodservice operators alone can resolve the drunk driving problem. Restaurants and taverns dispense only one quarter of all the alcoholic beverages consumed in the United States. But we believe that we can and should help. We are joining with the other organizations and individuals across the country in doing our part to clear our streets and highways of intoxicated drivers."

From "NEWS NOTES"
National Commission Against
Drunk Driving

FREE REPRINTS

Hazelden and the Cork Foundation of St. Paul, Minnesota, have announced plans for a nationwide prevention program to end the drug and drug problems among the country's adolescents and young adults.

Entitled Hazelden-Cork Center for Sports Prevention Participants, the innovative project was developed as a result of the materials in a six-month study of alcohol and other drug issues that involved 1,000 young adults in the fields of chemical dependency, public health, the arts, sports, and recreation in the study. The results of the study, in part, found that the availability of sports and the number of sports activities available to young adults, anti-drug and organizations are ideal springboards for prevention. The Cork Foundation is targeting sports at all levels (grade school, college, amateur, as well as professional) and is tailored for policy makers, communities, schools, coaches, parents, administrators, team leaders, athletes, and professional amateur athletes.

Joan Kroc has been involved in alcohol and drug education for some time. In 1976 she founded Operation Cork, a non-profit organization that creates alcohol drug education films and printed materials to sensitize and educate teenagers. Operation Cork also provides consultation on employee assistance programs.

Hazelden has worked with Operation Cork for years and is a major distributor of their films. The following is a brief summary of their experience and shared goals.

Hazelden-Cork is presently located in St. Paul, Minnesota. However, by late 1985, a \$6.9 million facility, funded by the Hazelden Foundation, will be completed on Hazelden's Centerville, Minnesota, grounds. It will be a multi-faceted conference and education center, representing the arts, the sciences, sports, arts, and a comprehensive sports and recreation facility. It will include a state-of-the-art strength and conditioning program. Services provided by Hazelden-Cork will include prevention consultation, individually designed prevention and intervention programs, workshops, seminars, and - upon completion of the new facility - a computer to evaluate and distribute information and materials useful in prevention and intervention programs.

Pat Griffitt, Director of Prevention Services, Office of Hazelden's Prevention Center, has been instrumental in helping to bring Hazelden-Cork activities, including:

Presentations at the 1983 Foundation for High School Leagues national meeting in Washington, D.C.

Establishment of a liaison committee consisting of key figures in sports, health and education.

Chemical awareness presentation to the National Federation of High School Athletes Association meeting.

Consultation with officials of professional sports, Olympic sports, and high school athletics.

Presentation of prevention workshops "Ladders and Prevention" and "Calling Your Own Play" to college and high school athletes.

Informational materials on Hazelden-Cork may be obtained by writing Hazelden-Cork, 355 Sherman, Suite 412, St. Paul, MN 55101. Telephone 612-291-0200.

From Hazelden Professional
Update Newsletter Oct. 1984

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FREE REPRINTS

United Technologies of Hartford, Connecticut has been sponsoring full page public service ads in the Wall Street Journal. In one they featured "Get the Drunks Off the Road" suggesting you can do something about drunk driving. Reprints, 8" x 11", of this striking ad can be obtained by writing to Harry J. Gray, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, United Technologies, Fax 360 Hartford, CT 06141.

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Next month, a drug abuse prevention program designed to reach more than 10 million students in every state of the United States was announced here today by Attorney General John N.递

The Program will be a preventive initiative initiated by the Justice Department's Drug Enforcement Division, DEA, and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) and supported by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the National Football League Players' Association and the National Football League.

The Attorney General, in a speech at the Lexington Center described the program as one of the most significant ever undertaken in the field of drug prevention and education. Mr. Smith said it will target some 48,000 coaches and about 5.5 million student athletes in 20,000 American high schools.

The Attorney General commended DEA Administrator Francis M. Mullen, Jr., for initiating the program and recognizing that drug education and prevention plays a role at least equal to a law for the future.

The DEA's Mullen, appearing with NHSACA President Ed Kintz and its Executive Director, Carey F. McDonald, pledged DEA's support to the program, which will focus on the special bond of trust and mutual respect that exist between young athletes and their coaches. Also participating in the kickoff announcement were representatives of the IACP, the NFL and the Player's Association.

"Our goal is to reach every coach and student athlete in the country," Mullen said. "We will provide them with drug abuse prevention materials and a plan of action."

As the nation's top drug law enforcement officer, Mullen has long maintained that the ultimate answer to the drug problem in the United States is to diminish demand through education and prevention.

"We have achieved some notable successes in the area of enforcement during the past several years both at home and abroad. But for every greedy, unscrupulous drug trafficker, we imminently there is always another waiting to step in and fill any vacancies."

"Drugs will be with us as long as there are people who want drugs. The undertaking we are announcing today, in my opinion, will go far in alleviating the demand for drugs in our schools and in educating young boys and girls as to what drugs do to their mind and bodies."

The NHSACA's Carey E. McDonald commented, "The bottom line is that the coaches will train their athletes to serve as role models in the area of drug abuse prevention. These young athletes will then exert positive pressure on their peers and on younger students. Hopefully, there will be a snowballing effect that will reach tens of millions of young Americans."

A key element of the program will be a package of drug abuse prevention materials which DEA will provide to participating coaches. The materials emphasize the special relationship that exists between the coaches and the athletes, provide detailed information on the signs of drug abuse and tell the coaches how to set up programs at their respective schools. The program will also involve selected DEA Special Agents who will provide training clinics for coaches at several locations around the country.

For more information contact Ted Swift (202) 635-1333.

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DONALD J. MACDONALD officially installed as administrator, Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA)...Stressed "need for better medical education..." "I want to see a better equipped primary care physician, internist and family practitioner.

Fuse Beats Oct. 1984

TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT ruled that a heroin dealer can be held liable for a death caused by drugs he supplied.

Fuse Beats Oct. 1984

SINGLE CAN OF REGULAR BEEF contains same amount of alcohol as shot (3 1/2 oz.) of whiskey. So, if you drink a six pack of beer, said Pharmacists Against Drug Abuse (PADA), you're getting six doses of a very powerful and addictive drug. PADA also suggests that Pulse Peats readers check to see if your community pharmacists are displaying PADA brochures and are actively participating in the program. If they're not, encourage them to do so.

Pulse Peats Oct. 1984

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TRANSFERS

P. Karen B. Olson - Nurse in District 13 telltale in Forsyth has resigned to return to school for her doctorate at University of New Mexico at Albuquerque.

Gale Messer Heil - New Boy Scout Service Center Counselor at Choteau.

Robert Clarkson - New Park City Alcohol and Drug Program Counselor at White Sulphur Springs

Terri Stevenson - Former Hill Top Service Center Counselor now employed at Deaconess Hospital C.D.T. - Current P.D.

Virginia Fleur - Hill Top Service Center Counselor - Resigned to accept out-of-state employment

Zuzanne Watson - New Project Director of Start Drug Program in Bozeman.

Glen Berg - Is the new director of the new Sweet Grass County Foundation in Big Timber.

Frank Kerkhove - New Director of Foothills Chemical Dependency Clinic in Kalispell.

Larry Daniel and Eugene McFee - New owners of Hill Top Recovery Center - Havre.

By listing personnel changes in various chemical dependency programs, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division does so only for your information and convenience. We intend no implication as to why the changes have occurred. They are no more or no less than what is listed.

Robert MacConnel

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MAJOR NARCOTICS BILL INTRODUCED on June 29 by Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y. [chrm, House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control...]. Would give \$750 million annually to state and local governments for drug law enforcement and drug abuse prevention and treatment. Under bill, funds would be made available to states on basis of demonstrated need, taking into account severity of drug trafficking and abuse within each state. State and local resources to resolve problem would also be considered. Bill includes funds for fiscal years 1986 through 1990. For more details contact: Karen Watson, House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, Room H-2-234, House Office Bldg, Annex 2, Washington, DC 20515 Phone 202-226-3040.

Pulse Peats Aug. 1984

AFTER EARLY TESTING, unique anti-drug abuse program called Pharmacists Against Drug Abuse (PADA) was launched nationally in late April. Program positions 140,000 pharmacists across nation as key resources for information, as speakers for school and community groups, and as advisors on subject of drug abuse.

Pulse Peats Aug. 1984

Please note that the New York State Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control is sending a letter of verification as proof of attendance. The letter will contain the complete list of names for verification of training.

ADULT ALCOHOL EDUCATION

MAY 1984

Letters will be sent to review all tapes must be in the A.D.A.D. office at least 2 days before the review date. It is impossible to schedule time and the number of tapes we receive we do not know how many tapes we will have. At the last review 10 tapes were reviewed and the total time had been 10, with 4 of these arriving the night before the last day. Each represents approximately 7½ hours of listening time for those in the 8th and 9th grade. We earnestly request your cooperation.

NEW 24 HOUR ROLLING HOT LINE can be reached by dialing 1-800/ALCOHOL Family Center major corporations funding the hotline.

Pulse Beats Oct. 1984

BURN ON ALCOHOL ADVERTISING

The "Burn On Alcohol" Pro-Advert plan is a national campaign to get one million signatures to let the President and Congress in opposition to the broadcast advertising of alcohol beverages.

The campaign is aimed at attacking America's number one drug problem, which costs society more than 50,000 deaths and \$120 billion in economic costs.

The petition is for a ban on alcohol advertising or a requirement for equal time to be on television and radio.

For further information contact SPI, 1755 South Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009 or 202-332-4110.

From "Network"
Ohio Department of Health
October 1984

SECONDHAND HEMP

"If a mother smokes marijuana in the same room where an infant lies and the infant breathes the cannabinols in the smoke, . . . the baby would be intoxicated," says Dr. Ingrid L. Lantner in an interview in the September 1984 issue of LISTEN magazine.

Dr. Lantner, a native pediatrician in Ohio, has lectured widely on the dangers of marijuana use. She has also testified before the U.S. Senate and has appeared on numerous TV and radio shows. In the LISTEN interview Dr. Lantner stresses dangers to the children of marijuana users.

"I see babies that are high," says Dr. Lantner. "I have had several mothers say to me, 'I get the baby high' and the pot keeps it sleeping for hours. It doesn't even recognize my feelings."

Another problem that Dr. Lantner reports is that of parents who offer marijuana to their young children. Some of these children start actively using the drug at the age of eighteen months to two years. The problem is particularly hard to deal with, since getting a high baby is currently considered child abuse, so social agencies are reluctant to interfere.

Dr. Lantner goes on to say that children who see their parents using marijuana will probably start using it themselves at an early age. "And if children start using drugs early in life, . . . there is almost no chance that they will be able to stop or turn back time and return normally," she says. "They really won't know what normal is."

From "LISTEN" Sept. 1984

Alcohol abuse was considered a major problem in society by 91 percent of physicians responding to a survey conducted by the American Medical Association (AMA). At the same time, only one out of five felt that alcoholism is a "disease entity," and more than 45 percent said they don't feel competent to treat alcoholism.

The survey, one of a series by AMA's weekly *American Medical News*, obtained responses from 4,500 physicians in the U.S. and Canada.

While 43.5 percent consider alcoholism a major societal problem, 57 percent of the respondents felt it was a "minor" national problem. Only 47 percent said it was "not a problem."

Asked what statement most closely reflected their opinion about alcoholism, 31.41 percent of the respondents said it is a "disease entity," 17.18 percent said it is "symptomatic of a social problem"; 57.4 percent said it is "a combination of the two"; and 2.62 percent said it is neither a disease nor a psychiatric problem.

Eighty-one percent of the responding physicians said that when taking a medical history, they routinely ask patients about their drinking habits. And 85 percent said special training was necessary to treat alcoholism properly, with half of the respondents in support of special training in medical schools. (*American Medical News*, 535 North Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610)

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WALTER FLYNN, vp general mgr, ABC-TV, is asking for help. He's concerned about messages from The Franchise Organization to down-size business of illegal drug use. He wants to alert media members in the industry. He's asking citizens to send him descriptions of advertisements, programs and movies that send the "drugs are fun" message to young people. The Drug and Health Institute - Walter Flynn, vp general mgr, ABC-TV, 120 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

Fri Pulse Beats Aug 1984

USE OF ANTIBIOTICS TO FATTEN CATTLE - WEST is coming under increased criticism. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported 18 Minnesotans infected with germs resistant to antibiotics. Researchers said germs came from South Dakota beef cattle. To fatten cattle, the cattle were fed daily doses of antibiotics. Cattle developed a resistance to the drugs. When this was transferred to the humans, twelve of the 18 later fell seriously ill. Some had pneumonia and bronchitis. But because they had acquired the resistant germs, the drug worked no miracles. Eleven people were hospitalized. The CDC said, "Antibiotics to animal feed should be re-examined and the risks and benefits weighed more carefully," said CDC's Scott Holmberg.

Fri Pulse Beats Oct. 1984 p.3

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ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY PLAN TO DEGLAMORIZE DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE

In a recent Senate hearing, Lee television star and member of the Entertainment Council, described how this newly created organization will develop projects and campaigns to deglamorize drug and alcohol abuse by and through the entertainment industry - recording, motion pictures and television.

Among the projects underway for 1984 are:

1. Develop a program to encourage U.S. different media producers to deglamorize drug and alcohol use in motion pictures and television.
2. Development of a quarterly magazine highlighting individuals from entertainment industry as drug free role models. A special section designed for young people will feature teen celebrities, sports figures, and personalities from the music industry. The magazine will be made available to support national and local awareness efforts.
3. Auto sports stadium events supported by auto related industries to promote a national campaign "Driving Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse," has been initiated. The funds raised by these events will be used to support local drug and alcohol awareness efforts. The first event took place at the New Orleans Superdome, on May 5, and involved local public officials and celebrities and was cosponsored by Pace Corporation.

Fri NIDA Information Letter June 1984

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Prepared by the Survey Staff
Aug. 12, 1984

REPORT

1. **Introduction** The 1984 Survey of High School Seniors, the 16th in the series, was conducted by the Project on Drug Use and Health, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "the Project")

2. **Sample and Methods** The sample for the 1984 Survey of High School Seniors consisted of 16,300 students in 12th grade in public and private secondary schools in the United States. The sample was drawn by the Project's sampling contractor, the National Center for Education Statistics, from a list of 16,300 schools in the United States.

3. **Findings** The 1984 Survey of High School Seniors found that illicit drug use among 12th grade students in the United States fell to 35.4 percent in 1983, down from 39.1 percent in 1982. Daily marijuana use fell to 15.2 percent in 1983, down from 17.5 percent in 1982. The rate of daily alcohol use among 12th grade students fell from 36.1 percent in 1982 to 34.8 percent in 1983.

4. **Attitudes** About 12 percent of 12th grade students in the United States said that they had "never" used marijuana, while about 12 percent said that they had "never" used alcohol.

5. **Indicates** The 1984 Survey of High School Seniors found that 1978 daily marijuana use was 30.3 percent, while 1983 daily marijuana use was 27.1 percent. Daily alcohol use increased from 30.8 percent in 1978 to 34.8 percent in 1983.

6. **Experience** The 1984 Survey of High School Seniors found that illicit drug use among 12th grade students in the United States fell to 35.4 percent in 1983, down from 39.1 percent in 1982. Daily marijuana use fell to 15.2 percent in 1983, down from 17.5 percent in 1982. Daily alcohol use among 12th grade students fell from 36.1 percent in 1982 to 34.8 percent in 1983.

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AMA, BUT DRUG MEANS

It is easy to know false or fact from the latest NIDA high school senior survey. Clearly, marijuana use among seniors has declined over the last five years, and a growing number of students appear to feel that smoking pot is not such a great idea.

But what does this prove?

As Dr. Mitchell, who chose to represent the Phoenix House, told students at Lafayette College this spring, "I believe that a good many adolescents are not smoking. They have kept up with what I call the 'earlier' adolescent marijuana. During the past five years, The Big Four and the AMA, the American Society of Addiction, the Institute of Medicine have all to say that health officials

"So what's surprising to me is that the trip to heavy use...in daily use...has been so great, but that the number of users has been so small."

And what's even more surprising to me is that the drug of choice in our society is that there has been relatively little adolescent use of other and more potent drugs like cocaine and crack. In fact, 85 percent of the seniors surveyed used some drug just last year.

While the survey is a valuable instrument of determining changes in drug use by adolescents, it is not perfect. Because it does not reflect true use by adolescents most likely to be drug-abusing, it should update:

From the Parent's Guide News, Summer Edition 1984

DRUG USE IN THE HOME

DRUG USE IN THE HOME

A story in Parent's Guide News describes ways of abolishing an enabling wife and her son's self-destructive behavior by getting them to detach from the problem.

"IT CAN'T HAPPEN TO ME"

An excellent tool for detecting drug problems is to consider the events that lead to recognizing the problem.

DRIVING AND MOTORCYCLING

There has been a lot of research on how alcohol affects car drivers. Much less has been done on the effects of alcohol on motorcyclists riding skills. But most motorcyclists would agree that it takes more coordination and alertness to ride a motorcycle than it does to drive a car. And there are more people injured on a motorcycle as the result of other drivers' mistakes.

Car driving skills, such as lane shakiness, reaction time and general awareness are hindered by alcohol. Motorcyclists lose these skills even more than car drivers. This leads to one conclusion: drinking before riding a motorcycle is a big risk. Using other drugs before riding is also a risk.

Most motorcyclists believe they can ride a few drinks without affecting their riding skill. But even at moderately low levels, alcohol can affect vision, coordination and ability to react, skills critical to safe motorcycling. Most of the vital riding skills begin to deteriorate after only one drink. Three to four drinks cause further impairment and loss of efficiency, and after about five drinks the motorcyclist's basic coordination begins to fail.

From the Motorcycle Safety Foundation
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

CERTIFIED SINCE LAST HABIT PUBLICATION

Todd, Cheryl	Chemical Dependency Counselor
Murphy, Michael	Chemical Dependency Counselor
Azure, Sharon	Chemical Dependency Counselor
Lipinski, Teri	Prevention Education
Finley, Britt	Chemical Dependency Counselor
Ganas, Jane	Chemical Dependency Counselor
Konefes, Thomas	Chemical Dependency Counselor
Duepner, Margo	Chemical Dependency Counselor
Habets, Carol	Chemical Dependency Counselor

Total Certified - 279

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A FINAL SHOT AT D.U.I.

15% of the U. S. population consumes 74% of the alcohol.

Beer accounts for half of all the alcohol consumed in this country.

Most Americans drink. More than 80% admit to driving after drinking.

On the average weekend night, one out of every 10 drivers on the road is legally drunk.

Drunk driving accidents are the most frequently committed violent crime in the United States.

Relatively few problem drinkers (about 7 percent of the driving population) account for more than 60 percent of all alcohol-related fatal crashes.

The average drunk driver arrested has a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .20, double the level of presumed intoxication in most states. (Roughly 15 drinks of 86 proof liquor in 15 hours for a 180-pound man.)

The crux of the drinking driver problem in most states is not necessarily the lack of adequate laws to deal with drunk drivers, but the lack of consistent enforcement of those laws by state and local prosecutors, judges and licensing officials. Because the risk of arrest and punishment is low, the deterrent effect of the laws is diminished.

Increasing public awareness and concern about drunk driving led 22 states and the District of Columbia to enact legislation in 1982 that mandates more severe DUI sanctions or plugs loopholes to ensure that existing statutes are more consistently enforced.

U.S. Dept. of Transportation

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THE TREATMENT OF ALCOHOLISM:
A SHIFT AWAY FROM THE HOSPITAL

by James A. Johnson, Jr.,
Florida State University

There is a major reshaping of the health care system in this country which has the potential for a dramatic impact on the treatment of alcoholism. Subsequently, the delivery of services must be planned to meet changes that are mandating a more restrictive environment in which treatment is provided. To develop strategies which will assure continued high quality treatment of alcoholism it becomes imperative to recognize these political and financial trends.

The financial power structure of the health care system is currently being reorganized. As the federal policy of reducing the size of health care is implemented, there will be continued reductions in the availability of state and federal dollars for the treatment of alcoholism. The result will be increasing emphasis on cost-effectiveness.

Terence Goriski reports that the insurance companies and government regulating agencies are at the forefront of the changes taking place in the treatment of alcoholism. The major attack is on hospital-based programs which are charged to be too expensive because they are used to subsidize hospital overhead that is not directly related to the provision of alcoholism services. The argument is that comparable treatment can be provided in a nonhospital based setting at less cost.

It is expected that the major insurance companies will institute policies that will limit compensation for treatment. The focus will be upon removing coverage for the relapse prone patient, reducing the length of stay for inpatient treatment, and refusing to pay for rehabilitation services provided in hospital-based treatment settings. In a variety of states Blue Cross is already demanding concurrent utilization review justifying the need for inpatient hospital treatment every seven days. Preferential reimbursement policies are being made for non-hospital based facilities. Since Blue Cross tends to be a trend setter, it is anticipated that other states and third-party payers will follow these practices. The end result may be reimbursement formulas that limit hospital-based treatment service to acute withdrawal and related medical complications. Long-term lengths of stay in hospital-based programs will need to be justified in terms of organic and psychiatric conditions requiring medical monitoring or treatment.

To meet this challenge many hospitals will be forced into organizational restructuring which will allow the establishment of alcoholism programs as free standing facilities. Smaller inpatient facilities may simply be forced out of business.

The expected changes in reimbursement structures will cause a reactive change in program administration and clinical management. At first a haphazard reaction will most likely create confusion and threaten the existence of the entire treatment system. As the reality and permanence of the trend toward short-term inpatient stay followed by a long-term continuum of out-patient treatment becomes apparent, the field will reorganize around the issue of clinical and administrative restructuring. The flexible programs with a strong commitment to the treatment of alcoholism will be the ones most likely to survive the transition away from the traditional hospital program.

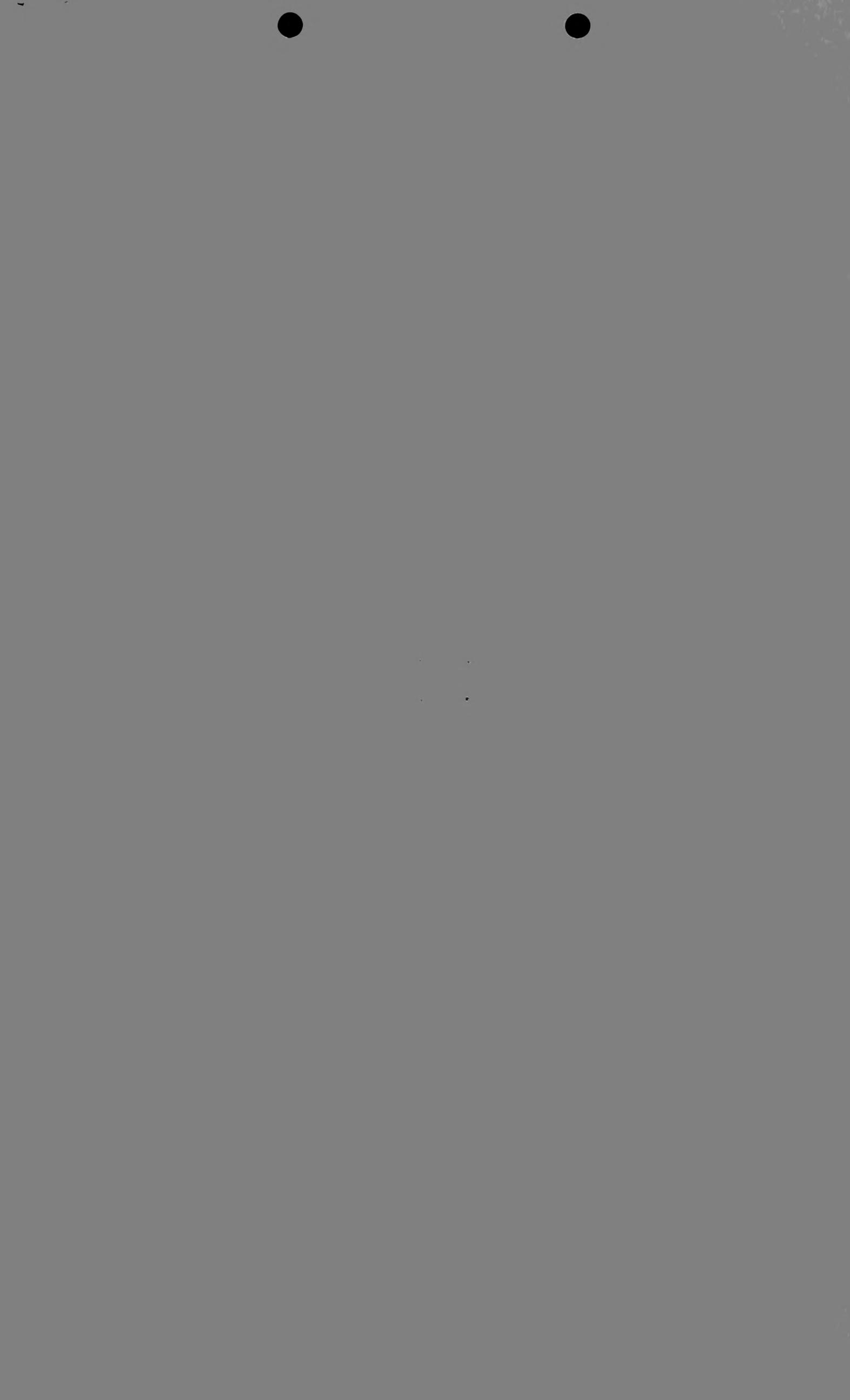
-- Awareness (Alabama), Vol. 5, No. 11,
April 1984.

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NEW EMPLOYEES AT A.D.A.D.

Michael Kauffman - Program Evaluation Section

Marcia Armstrong - Certification and Training Section



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